

IX

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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**RUSHDEN
URBAN DISTRICT**

Annual Reports

FOR THE YEAR 1929.

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

O. A. J. N. MURISSET

M.B., Ch.B., Edin.

AND OF

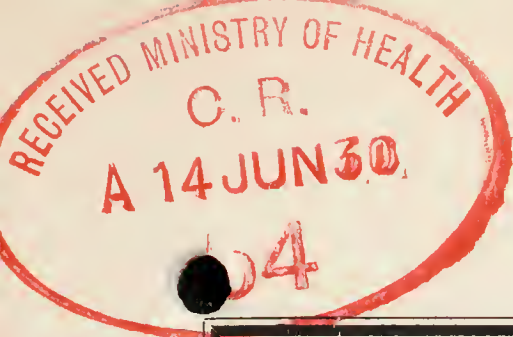
The Sanitary Inspector

FREDERICK S. F. PIPER

M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

RUSHDEN :

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6 copies

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Rushden Urban District Council.

Chairman of Council :

DR. D. G. GREENFIELD, J.P.

Chairman of the Health and Sanitary Committee :

COUNCILLOR J. SPENCER, J.P.

Members of the Health and Sanitary Committee :

COUNCILLORS—

D. G. GREENFIELD	T. SWINDALL
J. ALLEN	T. F. B. NEWBERRY
F. GREEN	A. WILMOTT
L. TYSOE	J. T. RICHARDSON.

Medical Officer of Health :

DR. O. A. J. N. MURISSET, M.B., CH.B., EDIN.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. S. F. PIPER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

SUMMARY.

AREA	...	...	...	...	...	3,777 Acres.
POPULATION CENSUS, 1901	...	...	...	...	...	12,447
POPULATION CENSUS, 1911	...	...	...	...	...	13,354
POPULATION CENSUS, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	13,511
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES, DECEMBER, 1929	...	...	...	...	...	3,619

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 LIVING	...	...	12.41
DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVING	...	...	9.05
INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1,000 BIRTHS	...	...	51.72.

WATER SUPPLY.

HIGHAM FERRERS AND RUSHDEN WATER BOARD.
SEWERAGE SEPARATE SYSTEM.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

SEDIMENTATION TANKS & DOUBLE FILTRATION.

Urban District of Rushden.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDA, 1929.

SITUATION.

Latitude, 52° 17' N. Longitude, 36' W

AREA.

3,777 acres.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

Limestone, sand and clay.

ELEVATION OF AREA.

150 Feet to 300 Feet.

POPULATION.

Census, 1921, 13,511.

Estimated to middle of June, 1929—14,020.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.

Census, 1911.—2,863.

Census, 1921.—3,076.

December, 1925.—3,241.

December, 1926.—3,298.

December, 1927.—3,398.

December, 1928.—3,489.

December, 1929.—3,619.

RAINFALL—IN INCHES.

1928—24.71, 1929—20.21.

Average 1.68.

WATER SUPPLY.

Constant service.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

By water carriage for the most part.

BIRTH RATE.

12.41 per 1,000 Living.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

51.72 per 1,000 Births.

PHTHISIS DEATH RATE.

.85 per 1,000 Living.

RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF RUSHDEN.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Public Health of the District under your administrative control, for the year 1929.

The general formation of the report will simulate that of previous years.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area. Summary.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	Acres, 3,777
Population Census, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	13,511
Estimated population, 1929	...	...	...	...	...	14,020
Number of Inhabited houses, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	3,076
Number of Inhabited houses, 1929	...	...	...	...	...	3,619
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	3,361
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1929	...	...	...	...	...	4,203
Rateable value, December, 1929	...	...	...	...	...	£58,305
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£228

During the last few years there has been some difference between the local opinion and that of the Registrar General as to the proper estimate of the population of Rushden, but this year the local figure and that of the Registrar General, namely 14,020 are to all intents and purposes in agreement.

It will be seen by a comparison of the figures for 1928, 3,489, and those for 1929, 3,619, that the number of inhabited houses has increased by 130 during the year, while the number of separate occupiers in 1929 was 4,203, an increase of only 4 over the 1928 figures. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs, showing that the matter of overcrowding, while still present is being steadily and most effectually reduced. It is interesting to note in passing that the sum represented by a penny rate has increased from £190 to £228.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

			<i>males</i>	<i>females</i>	<i>total.</i>
Live Births : Legitimate	...		85	84	169
Illegitimate	...	...	3	2	5
			—	—	—
			88	86	174
			—	—	—

Birth rate—12.41.

Deaths : 137. Death Rate 9.05.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :

From Sepsis : 1.

From Other causes : *Nil.*

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births :

Legitimate : 41.42. Illegitimate : 400. Total : 51.72.

Deaths from measles (all ages) : *Nil.*

Deaths from whooping cough (all ages) : 2.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) : *Nil.*

Local Birth Rate.

The Registrar General's Return shows that there were 174 births in 1929, which figure is exactly the same as that for 1928. Of this figure 88 were males and 86 were females and of this total there were 5 illegitimate births, 3 being males and 2 being females. The total birth rate for the year is 12.41. This figure being slightly below that for 1928. The local birth rate is again well below that for England and Wales as a whole, namely 16.3. Comparing the birth rate for the last 7 years a steady fall will be noted, although the difference in the figures for 1927, 1928 and 1929, is comparatively small. It is convenient to note under this heading that one mother died of sepsis during the year. While this is to be deplored it is satisfactory to note that this is the only death from this cause which has occurred since 1924.

Birth Rate.

	1923.	1924.	1925	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Rushden	17.6	14.4	15.31	15.38	12.84	12.74	12.41
England and Wales	19.7	18.8	18.3	17.8	16.7	16.7	16.3

Local Death Rate.

In the year 1929, there were 137 deaths registered and of this figure 67 were among males and 70 among females. The total death rate being 9.05 which is the lowest death rate during the last 7 years, and it might be safely said ever registered in Rushden. It is interesting to note that this figure is well below that for England and Wales, namely 13.4.

Death Rate.

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Rushden	9.48	9.81	10.0	9.68	10.25	10.69	9.05

Infant Mortality.

The Infantile Mortality Rate (the number of deaths among infants under one year per 1,000 infants born) for 1929 is the satisfactory figure of 51.72. The actual number of deaths of children under one year was 9, of which 2 were illegitimate and of this total in 7 instances death was due to congenital debility, malformation or premature birth. It is therefore obvious that much still remains to be done in the anti-natal care of expectant mothers. The establishment of a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the town is confidently expected in 1930, and it is to be hoped that the work of this centre will materially help in the further reduction of the Infant Mortality figure. It is again satisfactory to note that the local figure compares well with that for England and Wales, namely 74.

Infant Mortality.

	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Rate ...	49.3	55.55	61.61	28.84	57.47	57.47	51.72

Influenza.

There were 7 deaths from this cause as compared with one for 1928 and 19 for 1927.

Tuberculosis.

In the year 1929, tuberculosis was the cause of death in 12 instances. In each case death was due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis as opposed to other forms of Tuberculosis. The total Mortality rate from Tuberculosis and that of Pulmonary Tuberculosis is therefore the same figure, namely, .85, and this is the lowest Tuberculosis Mortality Rate for the last 9 years, and probably the lowest figure ever recorded in Rushden.

Tuberculosis.

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
No. deaths	21.	17.	15.	15.	12.	19.	13.	12.
Mortality rate—								
	1.25	1.23	1.09	1.08	.88	1.4	.95	.85

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
No. deaths	17.	12.	12.	14.	9.	17.	12.	12.
Mortality rate—								
	1.23	.87	.87	1.01	.66	1.25	.87	.85

Cancer.

It is regretable to note that the number of deaths due to cancer has again increased, this year's figure being 21, giving a mortality rate of 1.49. This is the second highest figure yet recorded in Rushden, being only slightly less than that of 1926. Cancer is still, as was pointed out in last year's Report with the exception of diseases of the heart and blood vessels, the cause of more deaths than any other disease.

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
No. deaths	11.	9.	20.	16.	23.	15.	18.	21.
Mortality rate—	.8	.79	1.45	1.16	1.7	1.1	1.31	1.49

Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels.

Again this year there is a considerable increase in the number of deaths from this cause to be noted. The figure for 1929 being 39 giving a mortality rate of 2.76. The steady increase in the number of deaths from this cause is truly disquieting, for this year's figure is very much in excess of last year's and the highest recorded in the town. A further analysis of the above figure shows that actual cardiac disease caused death in 29 instances, whereas diseases of the blood vessels caused 10 deaths. The cause of the increase of death from these causes is somewhat difficult to explain, for rheumatic fever which is the most common cause of heart disease does not appear to be particularly prevalent in the district. One therefore wonders whether the increased pace of living, both at work and at play, may not be in a large measure accountable for the ever increasing number of deaths from the causes under consideration.

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
No. deaths	17.	24.	24.	28.	23.	30.	33.	39.
Mortality rate—	1.23	1.74	1.75	2.03	1.7	2.2	2.41	2.76

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases.

The number of deaths from these causes during the year was 9, giving a mortality rate of .64 a satisfactory figure particularly when it is realised that only 3 of the deaths were due pneumonia.

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
No. deaths	23.	14.	19.	20.	21.	8.	11.	9.
Mortality rate—	1.69	1.01	1.38	1.4	1.54	.59	1.24	.64

The Death Rate as a Whole.

	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	9.6	9.49	9.81	10.01	9.68	10.25	10.69	9.05

Deaths at All Ages.

The following Table shows the age distribution of the deaths during 1929, according to the Returns received. This year the local figures and those of the Registrar General are in agreement.

Totals	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & Over
126	8		1		1		1	3	16	3	36	57
22	Inward Transfers.					2		1	2	1	4	12
148	8		1		1	2	1	4	18	4	40	69
11	Outward Transfers.							1	6	2	2	
137	8		1		1	2	1	3	12	2	38	69

The following Table shows in detail the causes of death as returned by the Registrar General.

	<i>males females total.</i>		
Whooping cough	2
Diphtheria	1
Influenza	6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	7
Cancer, malignant disease	13
Rheumatic fever	—
Diabetes	1
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	4
Heart disease	13
Arterio-sclerosis	8
Bronchitis	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	—
Other Respiratory diseases	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3
Acute and chronic nephritis	—
Puerperal sepsis	—
Congenital debility and malformation,
premature birth	5
Suicide	1
Other deaths from violence	1
Other defined diseases	8
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1
			—
	TOTAL	67	70
		—	—
			137

Causes of Sickness and Invalidity.

On the whole the year 1929 may be regarded as a fairly healthy year. Apart from an outbreak of Influenza, comparatively mild in character, at the beginning of the year, there were no real epidemics although scarlet fever and diphtheria were more prevalent than in previous years.

Without wishing to labour the point, I would again like to emphasise the need for more care on the part of parents in the isolation of infectious diseases occurring amongst children. Too often the association of children at school is blamed for the spread of infection and the plea made by parents that their children had taken infection from some other child, is put forward as a reason for allowing an infectious child to expose itself and be a danger to others. One realises that the isolation at home is often difficult, but it has been noted that it is just in the cases where isolation should be comparatively simple that laxness in these matters occurs.

The General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

The three Hospitals situated within the Urban boundaries have been unchanged throughout the year. The Small-pox Hospital which is the property of the Urban Council, is situated about a mile beyond the town and it provides accommodation for some 24 patients in two wards, and has attached the necessary administrative offices. Throughout the year the Hospital has been maintained in a most satisfactory condition by the resident caretaker and his wife, the latter being willing to undertake certain administrative duties in the Hospital in an emergency. The Cottage Hospital has carried on its good work throughout the year and has accommodation for 2 beds. As in previous years only surgical work of a minor character has been carried out here, the patients being cared for by a resident nurse. As in the past the majority of cases requiring in-patient treatment are sent to the County Hospitals at Northampton and Bedford.

The Rushden House Sanatorium which is under the Administrative control of the Northamptonshire County Council and has accommodation for the treatment of some 72 patients, has carried on its excellent work throughout the year. The majority of the beds in this Institution are reserved for the use of tuberculosis persons resident within the County boundaries, but a few beds are let to local Authorities outside the County.

There is no Infectious Diseases Hospital in the area. The town having been remarkably free in past years from the diseases usually treated in an Infectious Diseases Hospital, the necessity of the establishment of such an Institution has not been considered of vital importance. In spite of this I am of opinion that in the comparatively near future the question of providing an Institution of this kind will have to be faced.

This opinion was confirmed by the occurrence during the year of the following case. A child was found to be suffering from diphtheria in a house where an expectant mother was living. It was deemed necessary by the Council to provide, at considerable expense, hospital treatment for this case in the Infectious Diseases Hospital of a neighbouring Local Authority, in order that the expectant mother might be fully protected from the disastrous results which might have followed if she had contracted diphtheria.

The Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association has, as in the past years carried on its work in a most efficient and effective manner. Calls for the services of the motor ambulance are always answered with the utmost promptitude, the chief duty of the ambulance being the transportation of patients to and from the County Hospitals.

The Orthopaedic Clinic which is connected with the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital and which was established in the town last year, has been doing a most excellent work. A visit to this Clinic is most striking, for previous to its establishment the need for its existence had by no means been realised. The number of patients receiving treatment and after care at this Centre appears to be steadily on the increase. The Clinic is under the direction of an Orthopaedic Specialist who is on the staff of the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital.

As is stated earlier in this Report, the establishment of a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is expected early next year. This Centre will be under the control of the Northamptonshire County Council and will be presided over by the Lady Medical Officer on the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Staff.

MEDICAL OFFICER.—PART TIME.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.—WHOLE TIME.

In each case half of the salary is recoverable from the Exchequer Grant through the County Council.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, etc.

The Rushden Nursing Association has carried on the work of the nursing of the sick in their own homes by still retaining the services of one fully trained district nurse, who is also a certified Midwife, much excellent work having been carried out. At the end of the year there were three practising Midwives in the town, two of whom hold the Certificates of the Central Midwives Board. The uncertified Midwife is now doing comparatively little work by reason of advancing years. Another fully trained nurse and certified Midwife is resident in the town, but has not practised midwifery during the year.

The nursing of infectious diseases, *e.g.* Measles, is under the control of the County Council.

Laboratory Work.

The arrangement which the Council has with the Northampton General Hospital for the examination of clinical material has remained in force as in past years and the following Table shows in detail the number and kind of specimens submitted for examination and the results of investigation. A supply of diphtheria anti-toxin in phials of three different strengths is kept at the Sanitary Department and is available for use of the Practitioners in the Town.

Pathological specimens submitted for examination at the General Hospital, Northampton.

<i>Specimens.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
Diphtheria	97	15	82
Tuberculosis	28	6	22
TOTALS ...	125	21	104

Legislation in Force.

A list of Bye-laws and Adoptive Acts made and adopted by the Rushden Urban District Council is appended.

BYE-LAWS.

19th Nov., 1891.	Byelaws as to new streets and buildings.
20th April, 1925.	Byelaws as to new streets and buildings.
19th Aug., 1903.	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations.
13th Nov., 1907.	Byelaws for the prevention of nuisances, etc.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

5th Nov., 1891.	Part 3 of the Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1890.
30th March, 1903.	Private streets works Acts.
22nd Aug., 1908.	Parts 2 and 3, and Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 and 68 of Part 4 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, subject to certain conditions and adaptations.
28th June, 1921.	Part 6 of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The Water Supply of the town is under the control of the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board and is drawn

from the Reservoir at Sywell which is situated some 11 miles from the town. The water is unlimited in quantity and of excellent quality. With the exception of a few houses in outlying districts, practically every house in the truly Urban area may be said to be "on the supply." There are still a few instances in which several houses share a common outside stand-pipe.

The Brook which passes through the town is now for the most part culverted, but in those parts where it is open it is bedded with bricks. It has been kept in good sanitary condition throughout the year.

In the matter of sewerage disposal, the water carriage system is in use in the Urban area of the town. Certain of the houses in the outlying districts are provided with cesspits and these have been kept in a satisfactory condition. The Sewage Disposal Works are situated in a low lying district between the Wellingborough Road and the Railway, the sewage being dealt with by the double filtration method in a most efficient manner. The effluent from these works is excellent in character and flows into the Brook which passes close by and from thence into the Nene.

The weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by means of 1 open and 4 closed carts. During the year 3,811 loads were carried. The tips at the Bedford Road and Wellingborough Road have been in use during the year and the new method of dealing with refuse, namely the tip-and-cover system has worked satisfactorily.

Practically all the houses within the area are now provided with galvanized iron sanitary dustbins.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The total number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year was 1,599. 272 Preliminary Notices and 2 Statutory Notices were served and 22 cautionary letters were sent. The number of defects remedied as a result of these Notices was 542.

A more detailed account of this work will be found in the appended Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Housing.

No. of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total including numbers given separately under (b)	130
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts	
(1) By the Local Authority	94
(2) By other bodies or persons	26

I. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—

1. Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	169
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2.	No. of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	38
3.	No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	<i>Nil</i>
4.	No. of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	65
II. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.		
	No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	52
III. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.		
A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.		
1.	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	<i>Nil</i>
2.	No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice (a) By owners <i>Nil</i> (b) by Local Authority in default of owners	<i>Nil</i>
3.	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations of owners of intention to close	<i>Nil</i>
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.		
1.	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1
2.	No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : (a) By owners (b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1 <i>Nil</i>
C. Proceedings under Sections II, 14, and 15 of the Housing Acts, 1925.		
1.	No. of representations made with a view to making of closing orders	<i>Nil</i>

2.	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
3.	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
4.	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
5.	No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	<i>Nil</i>

The Inspection and Supervision of Food, the Milk Supply, Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, etc.

The following tabular statement shows the work which has been done throughout the year under this heading :—

Milk Supply. Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Cowsheds inspected	...	...	...	...	57
Dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	23
Milkshops and Milkstores	...	...	...	...	9
Number of samples of Milk taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	11
Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	3
Other matters	...	...	...	...	2
New floors constructed in Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	2

Meat Inspection.

The following table shews the work done during 1929 under this heading :

Meat, etc.

Slaughter-houses, inspection of	...	...	...	...	366
Butcher's shops	...	...	...	...	60
Food Stores, Food vans and other Food Premises	...	...	...	...	8
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	3
Meat and other food condemned as diseased or unfit for food	...	...	1 ton-3 cwts. 2 qrs.-	9½ lb.	

Slaughter-houses.

Licenced	...	...	...	...	...	5
Registered	...	...	...	...	...	3
TOTAL						8

The Administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, etc., is in the hands of the County Council.

The Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The following table sets forth an analysis of the total cases of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Totals	Unlyr	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & ov
Scarlet fever ...	32				4	2	11	7	5	3			
Diphtheria ...	13				1	1	5	4	1	1			
Puerperal fever	1									1			
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1									1			
Pneumonia ...	10				1				3	2	1	2	1
Erysipelas ...	9		1						1	1	1	3	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1							1					
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1			1									
TOTAL ...	68		1	1	6	3	16	12	10	9	2	5	3

Notifiable Diseases.

Monthly incidence of Infectious Disease (including Tuberculosis).

Months	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis Lethargica	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Totals
JANUARY ...		3	3	2	1	1			1		11
FEBRUARY ...			1	1		1			1		3
MARCH ...	2		1	4					2		9
APRIL ...		2					1		4		7
MAY ...	2	1	1	1					2		7
JUNE ...			1								1
JULY ...	2										2
AUGUST ...	4	2						1	1		8
SEPTEMBER ...	5	2	1						1		9
OCTOBER ...	6			1					2		9
NOVEMBER ...	7		1						1		9
DECEMBER ...	4	3		1					1		9
TOTALS ...	32	13	9	10	1	1	1	1	16	—	84

1916—279. 1917—278. 1918—211. 1919—118. 1920—63.
1921—42. 1922—79. 1923—80. 1924—83. 1925—203.
1926—160. 1927—55. 1928—52. 1929—68.

The above tables set forth in detail the number of cases of notifiable disease, including Tuberculosis, which occurred during the year. The tables also show how these deaths were distributed in the various age periods and also their monthly

incidence. There were 68 cases of notifiable disease and 16 cases of Tuberculosis notified, all of which were of the Pulmonary variety.

This year's figure for notifiable disease is somewhat in excess of that for last year, namely 52 as against 21, and the increase is accounted for largely by a greater number of scarlet fever and diphtheria. There were 32 cases of scarlet fever in 1929 as against 11 in 1928 and 13 cases of diphtheria as against 4. The cases of scarlet fever were for the most part comparatively mild in character and no deaths were caused by this disease nor was there a death from diphtheria.

10 Cases of Pneumonia were notified with 3 deaths. The notification figure for Pneumonia is a considerable improvement when compared with the figure for 1928, namely 21. Encephalitis Lethargica was notified in one instance and a fatal case of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis was also notified.

During the year the possibility of an out-break of Small-pox in the Town caused considerable anxiety. In the first instance a man and wife had been in contact with a person who later developed small-pox. Fortunately information of this was received in time to protect these two people and their contacts by vaccination. There were also several cases of persons who had been in-patients in wards of Northampton General Hospital in which small-pox had occurred; these patients being discharged from the hospital before their quarantine period had expired. None of these cases developed the disease fortunately but the daily visitations of all these contacts entailed a considerable amount of work.

The following Table gives an analysis of the deaths in the various age periods from notifiable diseases. It also shows the number of cases treated in hospital. There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Analysis of Deaths under Age Groups											
				Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over
Scarlet fever ...	32	1													
Diphtheria ...	13														
Puerperal fever	1														
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1														
Pneumonia ...	10		3	*1								1		*1	
Erysipelas ...	9														
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1														
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis...	1		1			1									
TOTALS ...	68	1	4	1		1						1		1	

*Cases not notified.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...						
1	...	...						
5	...	...						
10	...	...						
15	...	...	2	1						
20	...	...	2	1			1	1		
25	...	...	3				2	1		
35	...	...	3				1			
45	...	...					1	3		
55	...	...	1	1						
65 and over	...	...	1	1				1		
TOTALS	...	...	12	4	—	—	5	6	—	—

The above table shows that there were 16 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified, but no cases of other forms of Tuberculosis. The table also shows that there were 11 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis but none from other forms of Tuberculosis. All the deaths had previously been notified, a satisfactory condition of affairs.

Under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Act, 1925, no Notices were served and there were no appeals and no compensation was paid. Under Section 62 of the above Act no action was taken.

Disinfection.

It is exceedingly satisfactory to note that during this year a Steam Disinfector was established at the Depot to replace the small disinfecting chamber which had in the past been so useful. The results of the use of this new Steam Disinfector have been very satisfactory and I am sure that in a comparatively short time it will more than pay for the initial outlay, for it will no longer be necessary for the Council to give compensation for articles, which in the past required destruction, for now all articles of clothing and bedding can be efficiently disinfected. Since the establishment of the Steam Disinfector 144 articles of bedding and wearing apparel have been dealt with. As in past years the method of disinfection of rooms has been by the use of Fluid Disinfectant Sprays and Formalin Lamps, and during the year 118 rooms in private houses have been dealt with.

In conclusion I have to thank all the members of the Council for the kindness and consideration shown to me in carrying out my duties. I have also to thank the Officers of the Council for the ready assistance and advice they have always given me. In particular do I thank Mr. Piper, to whose efficiency and tact the successful working of the Sanitary Department is largely due, for his unstinted energy and loyal help at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

O. A. J. N. MURISSET, M.B., CH.B.EDIN.
Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF
VETERINARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1929.

	3 Months ending March	3 Months ending June	3 Months ending September	3 Months ending December
Premises visited	18	18	17	17
Milch cows and heifers inspected	170	167	176	174
Symptoms of disease in cows	—	—	—	1

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RUSHDEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Again I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report. This report being for the year 1929.

In comparing the figures with those of the year 1928, there is ample evidence of another busy year. There is a general increase in the figures for the number of complaints received, the number of inspections made during the year, the general repairs to houses, etc., and additions and repairs in factories. For food premises, the inspections are fewer in number, and the amount of food found to be diseased was practically of the same total weight as last year within a few pounds.

Complaints.

As in previous years, it is very pleasing to note that the department was the means of rendering assistance to many citizens, who felt that they were justified in lodging a complaint, and obtaining, if possible, some redress. During the year 126 persons sought this assistance, and save for one or two instances, where Sanitary Law could not be exercised the remainder, were quite satisfied with the result.

Dwelling Houses.

During the year 169 dwelling houses were inspected for housing and general defects. 38 of this number were recorded under the "Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925" and Housing Acts, and the remainder under the "Public Health Acts." This procedure is necessary where the remedying of certain defects cannot be obtained under the Public Health Acts, and recourse has to be sought under the Housing Acts.

During the year no houses were found to be in such a state as to be unfit for habitation, but I venture to suggest that when the housing shortage is somewhat relieved a special report will have to be made upon some of the very old and badly lighted and ventilated property.

An inspection was made of a certain row of 21 houses, and it was found that for the most part they were not in all respects in a reasonable state of repair ; but it is gratifying to report that after correspondence with the owner, repairs, etc., were put in hand, and although not completed at the end of the year, I feel certain will be completed early in 1930.

On referring to the Appendix to this report it will be found that a total of 542 defects have been remedied during the year against a total of 399 for the year 1928, and so far as the dwelling houses are concerned the defects remedied total 393 against 254 for 1928.

It is very gratifying to remark that at one of the schools in the town the obsolete sanitary conveniences were removed and three up-to-date sanitary conveniences constructed. The work consisted of the removal of the automatically flushed trough serving for three cubicles or closets and the construction of new drains and fittings and the fixing of new pedestal pans and flushing cisterns.

In passing it would not be unwise to say that at one or two schools it has been necessary on several occasions to draw the caretakers' attention to the low standard of cleanliness of the sanitary conveniences.

There are several other items of interest in the Appendix to which I would ask you to refer.

Factories and Workshops.

Under this heading there has again been an increase both for the number of inspections and the additional sanitary conveniences provided and in the number of general defects remedied as compared for the year 1928.

Ten additional water-closets have been constructed, owing largely to several occupiers of factories increasing their number of workpeople, and the existing water-closet accommodation being correspondingly inadequate. (The Sanitary Accommodation Order requiring one sanitary convenience for every 25 persons employed, up to the first 100 and then one for every 40 persons). It was found necessary to ask for intervening air spaces to be constructed for new and existing sanitary conveniences in 9 instances.

At one factory where a range of automatic flushed trough closets existed, it was decided by the management to remove this obsolete type of closet and have proper pedestal washdown pans and flushing cisterns constructed. I think the proprietors of the factory are to be highly commended in making such a progressive move in the sanitation of the factory.

At the end of this report a full list of defects found in Factories and Workshops and those remedied during the year is given and totals 85 as compared with 39 for the previous year.

At the present time there are 62 large factories and 23 workshops defined as factories under the Factory and Workshops Act, making a total of 85 Factories, 39 Workshops and 18 Bakehouses (the latter dealt with under the Factory Acts).

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

As in previous years particular attention has been given to the inspection of premises where milk is produced and kept for dairying or selling purposes. In the case of the Cowsheds much time has been spent in convincing the cowman or cow-keeper of the vital necessity of strict cleanliness in himself and in the condition of his cows, and also the keeping of all utensils used for the reception of milk not only very clean, but out of the cowshed when not required. On referring to the list of defects found during the inspections it will be seen that they are small in number, and as in past years a fairly good standard of cleanliness has been maintained. Having regard to structural defects, it is very pleasing to report that 2 cowshed floors were reconstructed.

With regard to the purity of milk conveyed through the streets and offered for sale during the year, it is of interest to note that in the course of delivery of milk to the consumer, 11 samples were taken and submitted for Bacteriological examination. The reports were then submitted to the Health and Sanitary Committee for their instructions, and in the case of two or three samples that were not up to the standard of cleanliness and purity desired by the Committee, instructions were issued for the Retailer to be interviewed or communicated with, with a view to a higher standard of cleanliness being obtained and maintained. At the end of the year this difficulty had been overcome, and a higher standard of purity reached.

Before giving any figures relative to the Bacteriological Examinations of the samples of milk it will be interesting to give some details of the procedure in obtaining the samples. The required empty bottles, each measuring less than a third of a pint, are sent to the Pathological Laboratory, General Hospital, Northampton, where they are sterilized and sealed. On taking the sample the seal is broken in the presence of the Retailer, viz :—less than a third of a pint being placed in each bottle, and they are quickly sealed : one of the bottles is placed in a container containing ice, as a guard against the multiplication of the bacteria during the time that elapses from the moment the sample is taken to the time it arrives at the Laboratory for examination, the other two bottles of milk being used as required by the Act, viz :—one is given

to the retailer, and the other is kept at the Sanitary Department.

The figures relating to the examinations are as follows :— Six samples ranging from 2,240 to 610,000 organisms per cubic centimetre, with no Coliform Baccilli found per cubic centimetre ; four samples ranging from 90,000 to 158,000 organisms per cubic centimetre, with Coliform Baccilli in 1/10 c.c. and one sample with Coliform Baccilli in 1/100 c.c.

Generally speaking one might assume the samples to be good, more especially the six containing no Coliform Baccilli. There is a " Grade A " milk being retailed in the town, which does not come within my province for sampling this being entirely under the control of the County Council.

At the end of the year 100 visits had been made for the purpose of inspecting cowsheds, Dairies, Milkstores, and for the purpose of taking samples of milk. The registers kept at the office contain the names of 17 Cowkeepers, 7 Wholesale Purveyors of Milk and 28 Retail Purveyors of Milk.

Food Premises.

As in the past a great amount of attention has been paid to the food question, and much time spent in the inspection at the slaughterhouses of carcasses of beef, mutton and pork. A large amount of English meat has been imported to the town from other districts, direct to the butchers' shop and this type of meat has received a considerable amount of inspection.

It is interesting to find that 439 visits have been made to premises for the purpose of inspecting meat and other foods during preparation ; 366 of this number being at slaughterhouses, and 60 at Butchers shops.

There was a total of 1 Ton, 3 cwts., 2 qrs., 9½ lbs. of meat and other foods found to be diseased or unfit for food. This only being 11 lbs. short of last year's weight.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations are still in force in the district, and so far as I know the Regulations are strictly adhered to.

On the 28th October, a Humane Slaughtering Demonstration was given by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at Mr. E. Thompson's slaughterhouse, Kimbolton Road, and a fairly large company of butchers, those interested in the trade and Councillors from this District and Higham Ferrers were present. The Demonstrator for the Society (Mr. E. J. Rowe of London) undoubtedly with his speedy dealing with the animals set aside for slaughter, convinced the company of spectators that the Humane Killer was far in front of the Pole-Axe and knife, and the present mode of slaughter. At the present time we have only three of our Master Butchers using a humane killer, but one looks forward to the time when the system will be universal.

There is no alteration in respect to the number of Registered and Licensed slaughterhouses in the district : the number is still 3 Registered and 5 Licensed, and all of these have been excellently kept during the year.

Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

It will be seen at the end of this report that 234 visits were made with respect to cases of Infectious disease, the majority of the visits being to Small-pox contacts : these people had been in contact with cases of small-pox that occurred at a neighbouring town, and with the fear of an epidemic occurring in this town, nothing was left undone in keeping in close touch with these people daily and taking such precautions as were considered necessary. Preparation was also made at the Hospital, in case of emergency, but it is very pleasing to state that there were no developments.

Scarlet fever cases called for 39 visits and Diphtheria 18.

In all cases of Zymotic Disease certain instructions are given to those in attendance on the patient, and every precaution taken to prevent the spread of the disease, invariably certain defects are found in the house, and in surrounding premises ; and if these defects are not the cause of the disease, then probably the medium that would predispose to it, at the opportune time steps are taken for its removal or sufficient remedy and everything is done that would tend to check a recurrence or prevent a spread of the disease.

It was also found necessary to exclude 140 children from school, 54 from Elementary Schools, 5 from Secondary Schools and 81 from Sunday School ; these children having been exposed to infection and some infected.

The total number of infected articles and rooms disinfected is 443. One hundred and eighteen of this number being infected rooms, etc., and 325 for articles disinfected. It was also found necessary to ask for 14 of the rooms to be thoroughly cleansed besides the disinfection viz:—the walls and ceilings to be stripped and distempered or repapered: owing to the walls being in such a condition as to probably retain infection. There were 175 infected articles destroyed during the year, the articles being in such condition as to call for destruction rather than face any risk of disease being carried to other persons. Of this number there were 70 beds, etc., and applications were received for compensation from 28 owners, the Council paying out a total of £38-5-0.

During the year the Council had under consideration the question of installing a Steam Disinfector and it is a pleasure to report that after obtaining estimates and being in correspondence with several manufacturers of Steam Disinfectors sanction was obtained from the Council to purchase a Machine with Boiler complete, that was offered by Messrs Manlove, Alliott & Co. for £198. The machine was not a new one, but had only done service at an institution for a very short

time. The cost of a new machine of the same type would be about £350, and as the machine was in perfect order and quite modern, it was finally decided to purchase it. The amount of money thus saved on the transaction being about £150.

The Machine was erected at the Depot, Newton Road, the first consignment of infected articles being passed through on the 21st October, this event marking the end of allowing compensation for each bed destroyed, and the establishing of a system of perfect disinfection by High Pressure Steam. The number of articles disinfected by steam since the inception of the Disinfector to the end of the year is 144. 35 of this number being beds : and had it been found necessary under the old system to destroy say 10 of this number, the total paid by the Council in compensation would have reached approximately £52-0-0 for the 12 months.

It is interesting to add that the cost of fuel for producing 60 lbs. pressure of steam for the disinfection of the bedding, wearing apparel, etc., from a house is approximately 9d.

I should like to take this opportunity of explaining the working of the two units, *i.e.*, The Boiler is of the Vertical type, size 6'-0" x 2'-6" diameter complete with Injector and all fittings for generating steam at a pressure of 80 lbs., and as soon as 60 lbs. is reached a pressure of 30 lbs. is sent to the outer jacket of the Disinfector ; which is 7'-0" long by 3'-0" in diameter and has an apparatus for producing Super heat, Dry steam, Hot air and fitted with the necessary gauges and vacuum producer. The articles for disinfection are then run in on a cradle and rails to the disinfector, the doors (which are steam tight) are screwed down, and the next operation is to create a vacuum in the disinfector of 21 inches taking approximately 10 minutes : (this vacuum is to expand and remove air from the fibres of the articles to be disinfected). The vacuum is then displaced by a pressure of 30 lbs. of Saturated Steam and kept on for approximately 15 to 20 minutes according to the articles to be disinfected. The steam is then displaced by 20 inches of Vacuum Hot air, and when the gauges shew " Nil " in steam, the pressure is released, and the goods are sterilized and ready for use again.

Petroleum Acts.

The work under these Acts steadily increases, due, no doubt, to the ever increasing number of Motor vehicles on the road. Applications for licenses to store petrol continue to reach the department from time to time, and the new stores together with the existing stores take up a fair amount of time in the inspection and approving the sites, the mode of fixing, the tanks, etc., and the apparatus.

At the end of the year there were 24 petrol stores in the district, 14 of this number being composed of underground tanks with pumps attached, and 10 of brick or iron pits, the

total storage of petrol in the district being 11,540 gallons of petrol.

Before an application for a license to store a quantity of petrol in an underground tank is brought before the Council, the following specification for the fixing of the tank is rigidly enforced, viz—The site is excavated to the approximate length, width and depth of the tank, plus 9" for a bed of good solid concrete, and plus the depth for a manhole. Three 9" concrete cradles are then constructed to stop any movement of the tank. The tank is lowered on to the cradles and bed, and the sides, ends and top are filled in with clay, except for a brick manhole that is constructed round the pipes, filling connections, etc., in the centre or end of the tank. The necessary pipes are constructed from the tank to the pump, and the tank and pipes are tested to an air pressure, plus the atmospheric pressure of 5 to 6 lbs. per square inch for 6 to 10 hours. If no leaks are revealed the application for the license is submitted to the Council.

There are not any underground tanks constructed under any buildings or garages, otherwise it would be a question for the Health and Sanitary Committee to consider additional protection against leakage and fire.

In addition there are 6 Carbide of Calcium Stores in the district and these have been inspected during the year.

Knackers Yard.

There is only one of these yards in the district situated in Shirley Road, and this has been kept clean and has been free from nuisance throughout the year.

Conclusion.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health and Sanitary Committee for their support and co-operation throughout the year, also I extend my thanks to the other Officers of the Council.

As in past years it has been a very great pleasure to work with the Medical Officer of Health. His kindly advice and assistance has been readily given at all times on matters concerning the department, and I therefore offer him my sincere thanks and gratitude.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FREDK. S. F. PIPER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Complaints received	126
Inspection of houses under the Public Health Act ...	131
Inspection of houses under the Housing Acts ...	38
Inspection of houses and premises for voluntary improvement	15
Other premises	64
Schools	13
Number of Water Tests applied to drains	6
Number of smoke tests applied to drains	12
Number of Smoke tests applied to existing house drains	7
Houses, etc., with respect to refuse receptacles ...	24
	<hr/> 436 <hr/>

Food Premises.

Slaughterhouses	366
Butchers shops	60
Grocery stores	5
Food vans	1
Other food premises	2
Fish shops	2
Ice cream premises	3
	<hr/> 439 <hr/>

Cowsheds, Dairies, Milkstores.

Cowsheds	57
Dairies	23
Milkstores	9
Visits for samples of milk	11
	<hr/> 100 <hr/>

Factory and Workshop Acts.

Factories	60
Workshops	4
Bakehouses	12
Outworkers premises	1
	<hr/> 77 <hr/>

Zymotic Diseases.

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Scarlet fever	39
Small pox contacts	169
Other diseases	1

234

Secondary visits	245
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Petroleum Acts.

Petrol stores	45
Carbide of calcium stores	6
Sites for proposed petrol stores	4

55**Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.**

Complaints received	2
Premises inspected	11

13

TOTAL	1599
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Number of Notices Served During the Year.

Preliminary notices	272
Statutory notices	2
Cautionary letters	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

296

DISINFECTION, ETC.
AFTER CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Rooms in Private Houses.

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

115

Schools.

Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	3
						<hr/> 3

Articles disinfected.

Beds	...	...	...	...	...	80
Pillows and bolsters	...	...	...	...	...	134
Articles of bedding	...	...	...	...	...	71
Household articles	...	...	...	...	...	8
Articles of wearing apparel	...	...	...	...	...	9
Library books (Public)	...	...	...	...	...	12
Library books (Private)	...	...	...	...	...	11
						<hr/> 325

Articles destroyed.

Beds	...	...	...	...	...	70
Pillows and bolsters	...	...	...	...	...	76
Articles of bedding	...	...	...	...	...	8
Household articles	...	...	...	...	...	10
Articles of wearing apparel	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sundry articles	...	...	...	...	...	2
						<hr/> 175
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	...	<hr/>618

FOOD SURRENDERED OR SEIZED.

FOR TUBERCULOSIS.

Oxen.				Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
1 whole carcase	...	...	...	5	—	10
2 Forequarters	...	...	...	2	—	20
5 Heads	...	...	...	1	—	8
4 Sets of Lungs	...	...	...		2	15
1 Liver	...	...	...			19
2 Hearts	...	...	...			11
2 Diaphragms	...	...	...			9
2 Spleens	...	...	...			5
1 Stomach and intestines	...	...	...		2	4
TOTAL	...	...	...	10	—	17

					Cwts.		qrs.	lbs.
Pigs.								
1 Carcase	...	...	...	...			3 —	16
11 Heads	...	...	...	...	1 —		2 —	13½
9 Sets of Lungs	...	...	...	...				23
14 Livers	...	...	...	...			2 —	5
8 Hearts	...	...	...	...				8
1 Spleen	...	...	...	...				1
1 Mysentery	...	...	...	...				2
1 Set of Intestines	...	...	...	...				7
TOTAL					3 —		1 —	19½

OTHER DISEASES.

Oxen.

1 Head	...	...	...	...				27
9 Livers	...	...	...	...	1 —		2 —	21
2 Sets of Lungs	...	...	...	...				19
1 Diaphragm	...	...	...	...				1
TOTAL					2 —		0 —	12

Pigs.

7 Carcases	...	...	...	...	3 —		3 —	15
1 Part of carcase	...	...	...	...				12
18 Livers	...	...	...	...			3 —	20
17 Sets of Lungs	...	...	...	...			1 —	15
15 Hearts	...	...	...	...				16
3 Spleens	...	...	...	...				4
1 Kidney	...	...	...	...				½
4 Stomachs and intestines	...	...	...	...			1 —	4½
1 Hide	...	...	...	...				7
TOTAL					5 —		3 —	10

Sheep.

2 Hindquarters	...	...	...	...			1 —	2
1 Head	...	...	...	...				5
4 Livers	...	...	...	...				13
2 Sets of Lungs	...	...	...	...				4
2 Hearts	...	...	...	...				2
TOTAL							1 —	26

Canned Foods.

25 Tins of Meat...	...	...	...	...			1 —	0½
11 Tins of Fish	...	...	...	...				9½
23 Tins of Fruit...	...	...	...	...			1 —	21½
3 Tins of Vegetables	...	...	...	...				5½
TOTAL							3 —	9

TOTAL WEIGHT—1 Ton—3 cwts.—2 qrs.—9½ lbs.

APPENDIX.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR.

Drains constructed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Obstructions removed from drains	...	...	...	...	...	27
Inspection chambers repaired or constructed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective tippers in drains removed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilating pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Service pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13
Waste pipes fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water-closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	21
New pans fixed	...	...	...	...	...	11
New flushing cisterns fixed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Defective stone sinks removed and glazed sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Internal walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	31
External walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	19
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Rain water gutters and pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Roofs stripped and reslated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	17
New fire-grates fixed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Coppers provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Window frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	17
Rooms stripped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	42
Staircases and passages stripped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Damp walls rendered dry	...	...	...	...	...	7
Yards relaid	...	...	...	...	...	1
Paving to yards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Galvanised iron sanitary ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	29
Smoke nuisances remedied	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	15
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
						393

Voluntary Improvements.

Rooms converted to lavatories	...	...	...	...	2
Bathrooms constructed	...	...	...	...	1
Earth closets constructed	...	...	...	...	2

Pedestal wash-down pans and flushing cisterns fixed	5
Lavatory basins fixed	1
Inspection chambers constructed	4
Soil and ventilating pipes fixed	5
Drains constructed	8
Gullies fixed	2
	<hr/>
	30

Factory and Workshop Acts.

Water closets constructed	10
Urinals constructed	1
Automatic trough closets removed	4
Water closets cleansed (walls and ceilings etc.) ...	13
Water closets repaired	10
Urinals cleansed	1
Lavatory basins fixed	2
Sinks fixed	1
New water closets pans and flushing cisterns fixed ...	13
Inspection chambers repaired or erected	3
New drains laid	13
Gullies fixed	2
Intervening air spaces provided	9
Escape in case of fire provided	1
Bakehouses cleansed and limewashed	2
	<hr/>
	85

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

New floors formed in cowsheds	2
Cowsheds limewashed	3
Dairies cleansed and limewashed	1
Other nuisances	1
	<hr/>
	7

Schools.

Automatic trough closets removed and pedestal pans and flushing cisterns fixed	6
Urinals constructed	1
Drains constructed	7
Inspections chambers constructed	1
Water closets cleansed	11
Other nuisances	1
	<hr/>
	27

TOTAL	542
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1 to 9 to State to note
2 P.H. Sax $\frac{16}{6}$

revalued
23.7^{30.} 5.5.